

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 12-14 were rejected. By the present response, claims 1, 6, 12, 13 and 14 are amended, and new claims 15-20 are added. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-20 will be pending in the present patent application. Also, allowed claims 1 and 6 are amended to overcome certain informalities. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims is requested.

In the Drawings

Applicants note that the Examiner requested Figs. 1, 2a-2b to be labeled as prior art. While superficially these figures resemble the prior art, the techniques used in the figures are different from the prior art. For example, in Fig.1 the article of the present invention includes an anisotropic media, whereas, the article in the prior art refers to an isotropic media. Similarly, memory, processor, etc. would inherently be different from the prior art. However, replacement drawings are submitted in view of the somewhat informal nature of the drawings as filed.

In the specification

Applicants respectfully submit that the paragraph 0052 placed at the end of the detailed description section stating, "What is claimed is:" is deleted.

Allowed claim 1

Applicants respectfully submit that the allowed claim 1 is amended to correct certain informalities apparent in the claim as filed.

Claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 6,182,512 (hereinafter "Lorraine"). Independent claim 12 has been amended. Claims 12-14 are believed to be patentable for reasons summarized below.

By the present response, independent claim 12 is amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim its subject matter. In particular, claim 12 now recites a method for imaging anisotropic media comprising slicing the anisotropic media. The sliced anisotropic media is then irradiated using a point acoustic source scanned with a receiver to map out a sound field. Further, time delays are determined in an acoustic wave from the sound field, where the time delay is based upon the acoustic paths between points in isotropic materials within the anisotropic media and a receiver position.

Applicants respectfully submit that in the process of imaging thin structures, Lorraine, as stated in col. 4, lines 42-46, coherently sums reflected signals from different scan positions by delaying each signal a specified time period. However, Lorraine fails to disclose a method for detection of defects in anisotropic media by determining time delays in an acoustic wave, where the time delays are based upon acoustic paths between points in *isotropic* materials within the anisotropic media.

In rejecting claim 13, the Examiner suggested that in col. 4 Lorraine discloses equations (1) and (2). However, as is evident from amended claim 13, for the purpose of the present invention $V_{material}$ is the speed of the acoustic wave in the *isotropic materials* within the anisotropic media. No accommodation is made in Lorraine for the speed of sound in isotropic materials making up an anisotropic article to be imaged.

For the reasons summarized above, Applicants respectfully submit that Lorraine cannot support a *prima facie* case of anticipation of claim 13, as amended. Therefore, it

is submitted that independent claim 12 is allowable and respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider rejection of the claim.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 13 has been amended to particularly point out and claim that the recited isotropic materials are those within the anisotropic media, recited in claim 12. Moreover, claim 13 is believed to be allowable by virtue of its dependency on an allowable base claim. Similarly, claim 14, also depends directly from allowable claim 12, and therefore considered to be allowable due to its dependency on an allowable base claim.

New claims 15-20

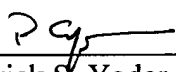
Claims 15-20 are believed to be allowable for the same reason as claim 12. The claim recites features from original claim 12.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/28/2005



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